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Center for Advanced Energy Studies beats \$5 million funding goal

IDAHO FALLS — The Center for Advanced Energy Studies has delivered on a promise to Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter to bring in \$5 million in new funding by October 2009. From July 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009, CAES secured \$13.9 million in research and other funding, nearly tripling its goal.

CAES Director Harold Blackman committed to the \$5 million target last fall when Otter toured the Idaho Falls facility.

"We wanted the governor and state lawmakers to know we're serious about providing the state of Idaho and other CAES partners with a return on their investment," Blackman said. "We're very proud that we were able to deliver on our promise."

Otter congratulated CAES on surpassing its goal.

"What's happening at CAES is a great example of what can be accomplished when we focus our complementary talents on our shared goals," Gov. Otter said. "All of Idaho is better off for having CAES working researchers at our universities to advance the goals of energy independence and economic opportunity. It's a partnership with tremendous promise, which already is delivering."

Much of the \$13.9 million is for nuclear-related research, including a project for the Electrical Power Research Institute that focuses on extending the life of the nation's 104 nuclear power plants.

Idaho State University, University of Idaho and Boise State University — all CAES partners — also won \$5.8 million for various nuclear projects through a U.S. Department of Energy research program for colleges.

CAES is a public/private partnership between Idaho National Laboratory, DOE and the state of Idaho through its three public research universities — Boise State University, Idaho State University and University of Idaho.

The state oversaw the construction of the CAES building and maintains it through Idaho State University. It also provides approximately \$1.6 million to Idaho universities to pay part of the salaries of the faculty who work with CAES.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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